(e) and (f) A Working Group under the Chairmanship of Shri M.V.S. Chalapathi Rao, Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been constituted to review RRBs Act, 1976. The Working Group is required to review the progress in dispensation of rural credit especially through RRBs since their inception and to make detailed recommendations in regard to legal regulatory, supervisory, institutional and technological dimensions for making RRBs an effective instrument for development and growth of the rural economy.

Status of Domestic Manufacturers of Soda Ash

5039. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 569 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th March, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of the domestic demand-supply position, comparative prices of indigenous and imported soda ash during the last two years;

(b) the status and composition of the domestic manufacturing and user industry or soda ash;

(c) the names of the organizations who have represented for revision of duty on soda ash, and whether Government have given them a hearing to sort out the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would invite them for further discussion to thrash out the matter and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is substantial domestic capacity and production of soda ash in India. Import dependence for meeting the domestic demand is not very significant. Over the last two years *i.e.* April, 2000 to March, 2002 as per the information available, the landed cost of imported soda ash ranged between Rs. 7515 and Rs. 8949 per MT, and has generally been higher than the price of domestic soda ash, which has ranged between Rs. 6000 and Rs. 8050 per MT.

(b) Soda ash industry is dominated by large-scale manufacturers and the industry shows significant concentration in Gujarat; whereas the glass and detergent industry have significantly large number of units, many of which are in the small scale sector and the industry is spatially more even [illegible]

(c) and (d) In the preparation of the budget for the year 2002-2003, meetings and discussions were held with representatives from trade and industry and the administrative Ministries. It was represented on behalf of the soda ash manufacturers, to increase customs duty. Some representations were also received from and on behalf of user industries to reduce/retain the customs duty on soda ash. Taking into account all the relevant factors, the Government decided to retain the present rate of basic customs duty on soda ash.

Disbursement of loans by public sector banks

5040. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of disbursement of loans by each public sector bank, category-wise;

(b) the number of applications received by each bank for the year 2001-2002;

(c) the number of applications processed and the amount disbursed;

(d) the minimum time taken for processing of applications; and

(e) whether it is a fact that many banks have not disbursed loans as per the target and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The details of loans and advances of Public Sector Banks as on March 31, 2001 (latest available with Reserve Bank of India) is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (e) The data reporting system of RBI do not generate information in the manner asked for.

Statement

Total Advances of Public Sector banks as on 31.03.2001

(Rs. crore)

Name of the Bank	Advances in India to				Outside India	Total Advances
	Priority Sector	Public Sector	Banks	Others		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	30153.35	20271.28	442.24	48372.20	14351.20	113590.27
State Bank of Bikaner And Jaipur	2046.73	916.65	4.18	2200.56	—	5168.12